

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of a wood body having increased surface hardness, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising impregnating an untreated wood body ~~is impregnated~~ with an aqueous solution of

A) an impregnating agent selected from the group consisting of a 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, n-pentanol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2- and 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,2-, 1,3- and 1,4-butylene glycol, glycerol, polyethylene glycols of the formula  $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n\text{H}$ , where n is from 3 to 20 ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof, and

B) a catalyst selected from the group consisting of ammonium salts, ~~or~~ metal salts, organic acids, ~~or~~ inorganic acids ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof,

~~dried~~ drying and then ~~hardened~~ hardening at elevated temperature.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an impregnating agent C) selected from the group consisting of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, 1,3-dimethyl-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, dimethylolurea, bis(methoxymethyl)urea, tetramethylolacetylenediurea, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)imidazolidin-2-one, methylolmethylurea ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~either of claims 1 and 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein an impregnating agent D) from the group consisting of a  $\text{C}_{1-5}$ -alcohol, a polyol or mixtures thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, n-pentanol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2- and 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,2-, 1,3- and 1,4-butylene glycol, glycerol, polyethylene glycols of the formula  $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n\text{H}$ , where n is from 3 to 20, or mixtures thereof are concomitantly used.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein methanol, diethylene glycol or a mixture thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 5,~~ claim 1, wherein the impregnating agents A) and, ~~if appropriate optionally,~~ C) and D) are used in a concentration of from 1 to 60% by weight in the aqueous solution.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6,~~ claim 1, wherein metal salts selected from the group consisting of metal halides, metal sulfates, metal nitrates, metal tetrafluoroborates, metal phosphates ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein metal salts selected from the group consisting of magnesium chloride, magnesium sulfate, zinc chloride, lithium chloride, lithium bromide, boron trifluoride, aluminum sulfate, aluminum chloride, zinc nitrate, sodium tetrafluoroborate ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein ammonium salts selected from the group consisting of  
ammonium chloride, ammonium sulfate, ammonium oxalate, diammonium phosphate ~~or~~ and  
mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein organic or inorganic acids selected from the group  
consisting of maleic acid, formic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, oxalic acid, p-toluenesulfonic  
acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, boric acid ~~or~~ and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst  
B).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein magnesium chloride is used as catalyst B).

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 11,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst B) is used in a concentration of from 0.1 to  
10% by weight, based on the amount of the impregnating agent A) and, ~~if appropriate~~  
optionally, C) and D).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 12,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is dried at a temperature of  
from 20 to 60°C.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 13,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the impregnated and dried wood body is hardened at a  
temperature of from 80 to 170°C.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 14, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that~~ wherein the impregnated and dried wood body is hardened at a temperature of from 90 to  
150°C.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 15,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the impregnated and dried wood body is hardened over  
a period of from 10 min to 72 hours.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~any of claims 1 to 16,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein, after the impregnation and drying, the wood body is  
fixed so that a change in the shape of the wood body during the hardening is counteracted.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 17, ~~characterized in~~  
~~that~~ wherein the wood body is fixed in a heatable press.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A wood body having increased durability,  
dimensional stability and surface hardness, ~~obtainable~~ obtained by a process according to ~~any~~  
~~of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1.